Setting up of High Power Transmission Stations in Orissa

3013. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DD-2 is not being viewed in all parts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking for setting up high power transmission stations in major areas of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) In satellite mode, DD-2 channel programmes are available throughout the country including the State of Orissa and these can be received with the help of appropriate dish antenna system or through cable network. However, in terrestrial mode DD-2 channel coverage is estimated to be available to about 25.3 per cent population of Orissa.

(c) All the high power transmitters envisaged to be set up in Orissa as part of 9th plan have since been commissioned, and there are now 7 high power transmitters (DD-1—5, DD-2—2) in the State.

Telecast of DD Programmes in rural areas

†3014. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that programmes aired by new channels of Government managed Doordarshan and Radio are available in metro cities only and are not available in rural areas;

(b) if so, by when Government will make available all channels of Doordarshan to rural people;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cable operators have made a pressure for accepting their new rates and that Government have accepted their demands and the rates are likely to be doubled as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AN^ BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) 22 Doordarshan channels are available in satellite mode throughout the country and can be received by using appropriate dish antenna system or through cable network. Terrestrially, DD-1 and DD-2 coverage is available to 89.6 per cent and 35.9 per cent of the population respectively. The population coverage in respect of DD-1 and DD-2 is expected to increase to about 91.3 per cent and 45.5 per cent respectively with the commissioning of the ongoing projects. In case of satellite radio channel, the programmes are available throughout the country. In terrestrial mode, short wave signals are available in almost the entire country. Presently, terrestrial Medium Wave/FM radio coverage is available to 98.8 per cent of the population of the country.

(c) and (d) There are no legal provisions for regulating subscription rates of the pay channels or of the cable operators. These charges are purely a contractual affair between the broadcasting companies, cable operators and the subscribers and the rates are market driven.

New DD Kendras in Rajasthan

3015. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of existing Doordarshan Kendras in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a few more Kendras in the State;

(c) if so, the places where these Kendras arc proposed to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) At present, one studio centre and 75 TV transmitters are functioning in Rajasthan through one DD Kendra at Jaipur.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to set up any other Kendra of